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THE
PRESENT STATE

OF

Chyrurgery,

WITH

SOME SHORT REMARKS ON THE A-
buses COMMITTED UNDER A PRE-
TENCE TO THE PRACTICE. AND
REASONS OFFER'D FOR RE-
GULATING THE SAME.

By Daniel Turner

IN A LETTER TO

CHARLES BERNARD, Esq;

Serjeant-Surgeon; and Chyrurgeon in
Ordinary to Her Present MAJESTY.

LONDON, Printed by R. Tookey, for E. Jaye,
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PRESENT STATE

CHRONOLOGY



Some short notices on the
British Coins and a Pre-
And
Reasons for the
giving the same

IN A LETTER TO

CHARLES BLOND, Esq;

Secretary to the Admiralty, and
Member of the Admiralty Board

Printed by J. Taylor, for A. S.
and
The Admiralty

THE
PRESENT STATE

OF

Chyrurgery, &c.

SIR,

SINCE the Discourse of a Reform in Chyrurgery, has been on Foot, I have had Thoughts to Communicate my Mind to You, on that important Affair; not that I have the Vanity to think my self the fittest Advocate, but having made a more particular Enquiry into the Abuses, for which we seek Redress, than I believe some others of the Profession: I was the less unwilling to appear in Print. Indeed had we to do with none but

the Considerate, and more knowing part of the World: Our Cause would speak its own Uility, and nothing would appear more plain then the Necessity of a Reformation; but since the much greater part of Mankind, are unhappily got on the other side, 'tis surely a Praise worthy Act, to Endeavour their Recovery from an Impending Ruine. I know 'tis very commonly Argued, *Si Populus vult decipi, Discipiatur*. But this however Pert, is not by some allow'd to be Conclusive, who thinks it so much wanting of common Charity, that whoever can, and prevents not the Deception, is in their Esteem equally Criminal with the Deceiver.

That the Practice of Chyrurgery is now, more than ever shamefully abus'd; is as undeniable, as I think Unquestionable; and that the People are the greatest Sufferers by Countenancing the Abuse, We have too many wretched Testimonies for it's Demonstration; what then should hinder the Worshipful Company, of which, you Sir, have the Deserved Character of One of the Prime and most Worthy Members, from Unanimously Petitioning that August Assembly in the Present Session, that Her Majestys Subjects may be better provided for, in the Disasters they are Subject to, and that those Swarms of Scandalous Pretenders may be Supprest. Mistake me not, S I R, I am not for making Chyrurgery a meer Monopoly, nor do I Value whether or no it be Engroft, by a Select Society. Let no Man be Discourag'd who
has

has had a Liberal Education, and can give a Rational Account of Practice.

I know 'tis too Customary with some (perhaps less knowing than those they Stigmatise) to Brand every Person with the Name of *Quack*, who has not Run a University Circuit, or Serv'd a Seven Years Drudgery to a Plaister-Box : This I cannot think to be a Fair Treatment, since 'tis possible for to find such, who have gone through both to very little purpose, whilst a Fertile Genius, Cultivated with greater Industry, and a more Sedulous Application has without this Formality, at sometimes done his Country very good Service.

If the good of the Publick is found to be the Principal, or the Real Motive ; an Undertaking to Reform the Practice, cannot surely meet with a Disappointment.

That the People are Dayly prejudic'd in their Limbs and Lives, by Unskilful Persons, is the matter to be enquir'd into ; for Evidence of which we need not give our selves the Trouble to Examine every Private Chyrurgery : Those Noble *Hospitals* in this *CITY*, one of which is so extreamly Happy in your Attendance will Furnish Instances enough of this Nature, where, upon Enquiry, a great Number of those Deplorable Misfortunes, are found to take their Rise from the injudicious
Manag-

Management of some Unlearned Empiric, or
Ignorant *Old Woman*.

A Cheat in *Phyfic*, or *Chyrurgery*, is so very Facile, and so Difficultly Discovered till 'tis too late; that considering the Consequence *Viz.* a Diseased Body or the loss of a Man's Limbs, 'tis the more amazing that any Government should be regardless what sort of Persons are entrusted with the discharge of either.

A Large Assurance, with a plentiful Stock of Impudence, as tis all that is accounted more Immediately necessary: So is it most commonly all that is to be found in these scandalous Pretenders to either of the Professions: And yet notwithstanding I need not tell you, how many Persons, quicksighted enough in other Matters, are too often ensnar'd with the giddy Multitude.

Chyrurgery has in this indeed somewhat of an Advantage, that whereas in *Phylick*, very often the Abuse is never detected; in Surgery (tho' sometimes too late) the Miscarriage appears manifest. 'Tis on this account, I mean the almost mathematical Certainty it carry's with it in its Operations, as well as that of its greater Antiquity; that with Submission to the Learned, I should always place it on the Right hand of *Phylick*, were I to make any distinction.

I must confess, tho' I cannot come up intirely to that Gentlemans Belief, who I have often heard declare that a Lazy *Phyfitian* made the first Surgeon.

Surgeon and Apothecary : Yet I must think all Three inseparable Branches of one common Stock; and tho' the Multiplicity of Diseases encreasing with Mankind, wick grew too much for one Man's Care, first brought in the Division : Yet the Antients for the most part, distinguish them no otherwise then as Theory and Practise : Or Science properly so called, and the same Science reduced into Practise.

Be this Sir. as it will, I hope to find you of my Mind, that as it was never reckon'd a Dishonour to a Physitian, to be well acquainted with the Practice of Chyrurgery : Witness those excellent Lectures of Dr. *Reed*, so must I needs think him but a Lame Surgeon, who understands not enough Pharmacy to give an account of his own Medicines : Or has learnt so little of the *Materia Medica*, as to let a Patient die (where a Physitian is not at hand) for want of the most proper and Prescription.

If some Men have so much Buisness as to want two Assistants, I see not why it should be thought a Crime for him who has less (provided he be found qualified) to practice as the Antients did : Whoever incurs the Censure of a Quack on this Account, has very little Reason to be concern'd : Since even the Prince of Physitians, *Hypocrates*, likewise *Galen* in the Beginning : And of latter times, *Ambrose Parey*, the most excellent *Hildanus*, with Hundreds more might be enumerated, were no other Men.

'Tis the Qualification which we are principally to regard, and that only to insist on: So that if our Representatives would take this Matter into their serious Consideration, and provide by some good act, that no Person should presume to practice, till He had first past an Examen, and was found fit to be entrusted with the Care of the Diseased Subject: Whoever I say should be found thus fairly to be entituled to the Profession, I should not for my own part, envy him the Fruits of his Labour, altho' he comes not in after that manner, that some people wou'd have him.

It may seem indeed a Hardship to the Free-born Subject, that an Aliene or Foreigner should run away with his Lively-hood: And 'tis very often resented, that one Man should be ty'd to a seven Years Apprentiship (which you know SIR, was my own Case) to purchase those Priviledges some others find a shorter way to; but alas, SIR, all this would never injure either Phyfick or Chyrurgery, but rather excite Men to a kind of Emulation and put them upon studying who should render themselves the most deserving of the Publick.

In Mechanics, 'tis certain the Foreigner however industrious, is excluded the City Liberties: But in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, Ingenuity will and ought to be encourag'd; the Accomplishment of the Person being still more valuable, than his manner of acquiring it. Our Company I dare say, will receive no detriment, by the Encourag-

couragement of Learned and Ingenious Men: Neither can I perswade my self, they desire any thing more (and nothing can be more desirable for the safety of the People) than that every Person should be obliged to give a satisfactory and sufficient Proof of his Capacity, or otherwise severely punish'd, for presuming, to the unspeakable Damage of the Queens good Subjects, to intermeddle in this Noble Art.

If this were once obtain'd, I am satisfied, the City of London would find a Diminution in the Bills of Mortality: Every Parish therein would be less burthen'd with their Sick and Lame, and those renowned Hospitals, perhaps capable of receiving all that should be presented, whereas now, through their vast Numbers, a small part only can be admitted.

Having survey'd some of the Out-parts of the Town, I find there is scarce a Barber or an Apothecary who does not Bleed, cut Illnes, treat Apostems, apply Plaisters, Pultisses and Fomentations. The great Numbers of punctur'd Tendons and Arterys, Stiff and useless Joynts &c. are Lasting Examples with how much Judgment they have perform'd the first. And the fistulous Ulcers and foul Bones, which are Weekly brought into the Hospitals, as well as to every private Practitioner, do plainly evince how slenderly qualified their Undertakers have been for Performances of such a Nature.

The Barbers are already under the lash of a good Law, and yet notwithstanding for want of its Execution

cution, we find many of them altogether insensible of the Penalty they incur, indeed so far from fearing any, that there are not wanting those, who have of late taken down their Polls, and hung out the Surgeons Sign instead thereof: By which the unwary are exceedingly mi chief'd and often buy their Repentance at the loss of a Limb, being frequently ruin'd before they are made sensible of their unhappy Mistake.

This Act, *SIR*, which I'm speaking of, was made in the 32^d Year of *K. Henry* the Eighth, at the time when the Barbers and Surgeons were (as it falls out) unhappily incorporated: That part which relates to our purpose, you will find in the old Statute-Book thus worded.

Be it enacted, ordained and provided by the Authority aforesaid, that no manner of Person, within the City of London, after the Feast of the Nativity of our LORD GOD next coming, using any Barberie or Shaving within the said City of London, Suburbs, or one Mile Circuit of the said City of London: He nor they, nor none other for them, to his or their use, shall occupy any Surgery, Letting of Blood, or any other thing belonging to Surgery; drawing of Teeth only excepted, and moreover &c.

What immediately follows, is an Interdiction of the Surgeons to Trim and Shave, but this, I suppose the Barbers will excuse me the transcribing; since I desire them to shew me one legally reputed Surgeon who meddles in their Occupation:

on: But to proceed to the Punishment of the Offender.

If any Person or Persons, using Barberie or Surgery, at any time hereafter, offend in any of these Articles aforesaid, then for every Month, the said Persons so offending, shall lose, forfeit, and pay Five Pounds: The one Moity thereof to the King our Sovereign Lord, and the other Moity to any Person, that will or shall sue therefore, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information in any of the Kings Courts: Wherein no Wager of Law, Effoin or Protection shall be admittted or allow'd in the same.

You see, SIR, here is an Act, expressly forbidding the Barbers to practice any part of Chyrurgery: And yet on account of the common Appellation of Barber-Surgeon, instead of Barber and Surgeon, together with the neglect of punishing the Offender, many Persons (as I have elsewhere remark'd) make no other Distinction between one and the other, than in some few Degrees of a better purchased Experience.

In the begining of that Kings Reign, about His Third Year, An Act was past as Follows.

TO the King Our Sovereign Lord, and to all
The Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and
Commons

Commons in this Present Parliament Assembled : Forasmuch as the Science and Cunning of Physick and Surgery (to the Perfect Knowledge whereof be requisite both Great Learning and Ripe Experience) is Daily within this Realm, Exercised by a great Multitude of Ignorant Persons, of whom the greater Number have no manner of insight in the same, nor in any other kind of Learning: Some also know no Letters on the Book, so far forth that common Artificers, as Smiths, Weavers, and Women boldly and customably take upon them great Cures and things of great Difficulty, in which they partly use Sorcery, and Witchcraft; partly apply such Medicines to the Disease, as be very noyous, and nothing meet therefore, to the High Displeasure of God, great Infamy to the Faculty, and the Grievous Hurt, Damage and Detriment of many of the Kings Leige People, most especially of those who cannot discern the Uncunning from the Cunning. Be it therefore (to the Surety and Comfort of all manner of People) by Authority of this Present Parliament, Enacted, that no Person within the City of London, nor within Seven Miles of the same, take upon him to Exercise and Occupy as a Physitian, or Chyrurgeon, except he be first Examined Approved and Admitted by the Bishop of London, or the Dean of Pauls, for the Time being, calling to Him or them Four Doctors in Physick and for Chyrurgery, other Expert Persons in that Faculty, and for the First Examination, such as they shall think Convenient; and afterwards always Four of them that have been so Approved, upon the pain of Forfeiture, for every Month that they so Occupy as Physitians, or Chyrurgeons; and not Admitted

nor Examind after the Tenure of this ACT, of Five Pounds, to be Employed, the One Half thereof to the Use of Our Sovereign Lord the KING, and the Other Half thereof to any Person that shall Sue for it, &c.

This Act, SIR, being made at a time, as I conceive, when there was a very small Number (One of the Contemporary Writers tells us they exceeded not Half a Score) of Chyrurgeons, and some even of those few, not Worthy of the Name; it was thought Expedient, rather than the Subject should be quite destitute of help, that such as out of Charity, were minded to Administer to the best of their Judgments, such Medicines as they were possesst of, should have the Liberty to succour the Distressed, without Molestation, any thing in the former Act, to the contrary notwithstanding. But whosoever makes a Parallel Case, or Retorts the Repeal of that well intendended Act upon us; as it will argue but little foresight so neither can any such Act if at this time in full force, be attended with the Inconveniences it was then.

Our City, God be thanked, is now so plentifully stockt with legal and well quallify'd Practitioners (there being more than Forty now, to one at the time we speak of) that no Person can be left Destitute of proper Help and Assistance. There will at all times be found Men of Profligate and Sordid Principles, but sure it is not Prudence to Condemn the whole **Society**, for the Faults of some Particular Members.

Con-

Conspiracies to do Mischief, too often succeed when mannag'd by Three or Four, but a Combination for the same purpose (if such a thing can be suppos'd) among so many Hundred, cannot long pass Undiscover'd.

If you ask me what I mean, Sir, let me tell you what I have heard Discours't, against an Act for Regulating the Practice of Chyrurgery.

Should this Art be once Engroft (which I am not pleading for unless by such, as are only fit to Practice it) by any certain Number of Men; some People perswade themselves, they must then lye at the Mercy of the Surgeon, into whose Care they commit themselves, and he may rate them as he pleases for his Attendance. This, believe me, Sir, however Trifling, has been handed by some of the Graver Citizens about a Coffee-Room, and being once in Company, I put the Question, whither, *Since there was a necessity to lie at some Bodys Mercy, or choose to Perish without Remedy, if it were not more Rational and Safe, to seek Relief from a Judicious and Reputable Artist, who had given many incontestable Proofs of his Judgment and Integrity, or suffer under the Fair Promises of some Butcherly Mountebank, or Unskilful Barber.* Either of whose Demands may for ought they know be (as Generally they are) much more Extravagant than the real Artists; and too often paid with this Mighty Difference,

ence, viz. the former for helping on our Ruin, the latter our Recovery.

I cant perswade my self, but that the Art of Chyrurgery is at this time in a more Flourishing State then ever, and am inclinable to believe the City of *London* can produce a greater Number of Men, Eminent in that Profession, than any other in the World; and yet at the same time, I am so far from thinking there is not Room for a *Plus ultra*, as to fancy its *Zeneth* scarce in sight. Till the *Indomitable Cancer* is made Tame; the *Obstinate Elephantiasis* is rendered plyable, or the *Stubborn Scrophula* brought under, we must not reckon upon its *Achme*. Tis Plain however, there is nothing now more wanting for its farther Advance than a due Incouragement to its Learned Professors; which is not to be expected till the Magistracy take Cognisance of those gross Enormities Committed under a Pretence of Practice, and thereupon endeavour the obtaining some good *Act*, whereby, for the Security of the Subject none but Approved, and duely examin'd Persons, shall, have any manner of Right or Title to the same.

The Act above specified, by which the Bp. of *London* had the power of licenssing, seems liable to gross perversion: For as his Lordship is no judge himself for Surgery, of a Qualification for Surgery, so the method of obtaining Licenses out of that Court, is found so very easy, that He who is master of a small summ of money, has seldom despair'd of that kind of Protection.

If those Licenses are not forged, which are shew'd frequently about the Streets by Persons very unfit to practice, I am sure it would be worth his Lordships while to inspect any Abuse, that may be committed to him unknown : And if they are found Counterfeit, 'tis very great pity the Offender should go unpunish'd.

I have been several times inform'd by Mr. H— that my Lord of L— has lately assur'd the Governours of the Surgeons Company, that he will grant no License to any who have not a *Diploma* to produce from the Examiners, as a Test of their sufficiency : And altho' such as have, ought not (in my Opinion) be put to any farther Expence, in the purchase of any other Testimony : Yet even if this were strictly put in practice, according to the true Intent and meaning of the said Act, there would be given the less Reason for a Complaint. But since the Law has laid so great a stress upon the B—— License, and that this License has been obtained without any such *Diploma* or legal Examination, there is room left for much Mischief to be transacted, and that under a Cloak of lawful Authority.

I had thoughts, *SIR*, of sending you an account of some of those gross Abuses which have fallen under my own Observation : But intending to Publish shortly somewhat of that Nature, in a distinct

distinct Discourse, I shall wave them at Present; However I cannot pretermitt what occur'd to me within these few Days.

Being talking in a *Druggists-Shop*, with an Acquaintance, there came in a Person with the Mein and Habit of a Gentleman, who retiring with the Master, into a Back-Ware-house, lookt over several Parcels of Aloes, but finding them all too high Prized, the Druggist told him he had one Parcel which was somewhat Course and Foul, but if he lik't the Commodity, he should have them at his own Price; upon these he Agreed presently, and order'd them to be put up for him. When he was gone the Master askt me who I thought he was, I told him by his Cheapning and Buying such a Quantitie of Course Aloes, I should have taken him for a Farrier, but his Garb and Appearance seem'd to contradict it; *S I R*, says he, this Gentleman has lately bought a Topping Gelding, and is turn'd Doctor, I have known that in Two Months time, he has dispos'd of a larger parcel of these Goods, which he makes into Pills, and sells with a Pitch Plaister and some other Medicines, in a Two-peny Paquet: At the same time he protested to me, that a Neighbour Farrier had refus'd to meddle with them, as thinking them not fit for the Bowels of a Horse.

By this you may see a little how the Mystery of Iniquity is carried on; and the poor ignorant People who smell no Deceit, but reckon all well when they have a great deal for a little Money, as greedily swallow down these abominable Me-

dicines, as they would the most Sovereign Remedy could be prepar'd. If it purge and vomit them stoutly they think it will do their Buifness, and indeed it very seldom fails their Expectation therein, nothing being more frequent then a Super-purgation, ensuing the Exhibition of this kind of Trash; insomuch that I have known above Three-score Stools, Voyded in a few Hours, and a great part of these nothing but pure Blood; what less can be expected, where the pernicious Feculencys adhering to the Coats of the Guts, so soon as ever the Mucous Lining is scoured off, the Resinous Particles continuing their Irritation, the Mouths of the Blood-Vessels are laid open, and vast Quantities of their Noble Treasure discharg'd by Seige. I am sure, SIR, I need not tell you, how often Syncope's, Inflammations, and Mortifications of the Bowels have brought the miserably Afflicted Patient to his Grave, who has unwarily swallow'd down some of those Poisonous Medicines.

These Horse Pedlers have Wonderfully increased within these Three or Four Years, and some of them have had the Impudence to take up their Stands in the Heart of the *City*, altho' more frequently in the *Suburbs*, where they have their Agents at work for them, in the Throng, that gathers round them, such as Whores and Pick-Pockets, who are ready to vouch for the most certain Truth, the greatest Lies can be Invented. But leaving These, being more particularly Cheats in Physick, I shall take the Liberty
of

of Trespassing on your Patience, whilst I give you a short Account of an intended Villany in Chyrurgery.

I make no question but you have hear'd of one who calls himself the un-born Dr. whither or no this Fellow's Birth had any thing in it monstrous, I can't determine; but I am sure his Practice is all over so. The Number of Womens Breasts, which this Man has cut off within these few Years, is scarce to be believ'd: And yet I am told by one who made the Enquiry, that he cannot produce One, where there was a true ulcerated Cancer, that is now living to tell Tales of Him.

Whoever knows any thing of this Disease, must know it, to be the most Outragious of all Others: And that the best grounded Judgment, and the most Rational Prescription has been generally baffled by it: So that the Person who is in most Hast to be Well, and not content with the Palliative, will find her self much deceiv'd by any promised Real Cure. I can safely say, I have not seen One, out of almost half a score (tho' the Operation has been perform'd by the best Artists) that prov'd Successful at Long-Run; the remaining Juices partaking of the same Ferment, having generally impress'd some of the old Leaven upon the Neighbouring Parts, in so much that a durable sound Cicatrix is almost impossible to be obtain'd upon the Ulcer: For want of which, there is way made for the nutritious Particles, to be carried off with the virulent Humours: And the most Corpulent Body in a few Months time is re-

duced to a Skeleton. This ill Success has made Mr. G——r (formerly very conversant in the Excision of Cancerated Breasts) of late Years decline the Operation. I must believe Mr. *Bernard* to be as proper a Judge as any man, and I am satisfied has had as Many of these Cases fallen under his Inspection: And give me leave, *SIR*, to tell the World what I have often heard you say; that you had not known such a Thing as a true Cancer ever cur'd; what then can we think of this shameful Undertaker, who makes no more of taking off a Breast (altho' no otherwise than a Butcher might do the same) than some Persons do to pair their Nails, so that scarce any thing of a distemper'd Breast is presented, but the poor Woman is frighten'd out of her Wits, with the dismal Sentence pronounc'd of its being Cancerous; Thus every schirrous Knot or Induration, every ill cur'd Apostem, where the Glands are sometimes bigg and hard for the want of a timely Discharge of Matter by a depending Orifice, every encysted Tumour, as the *Steatom*, *Atherom* &c. goes away with the same Prognostick, and are commonly hack'd off under that Denomination.

That I might not seem to talk too fast, or speak what I cannot justifie, take this, amongst many Relations of the like Nature I could present you.

A Gentlewoman sometime ago (tho' now living) came to me one Evening for my Advice about her Breast, which she shew'd me, exceedingly bigg, much inflam'd and acutely painful from the
excessive

excessive Tension. She told me she was then just come from the Dr. in *Moor-Fields*, who declar'd it was a Cancer, and if not speedily taken off, would kill Her: Upon this, there was an Agreement made, and for Five Guineas down the next day, the Operation was to have been perform'd. I was much amaz'd at what she Reported, and could scarce believe my own Eyes, or the touch of my Fingers by which I perceiv'd plainly the Breast was full of Matter, which had made an Absces, and was occasion'd only by a Stagnation of the Milk, from cold after a Lying in. The Woman desir'd I would not Flatter her, for since this Famous Operatour had assur'd her it was a Cancer, she was hard to be brought off from that Opinion; so that before she admitted me to open it, I told her she might take the Thoughts of any other Chyrurgeon in the *City*; accordingly she consulted Three or Four that Night, and finding them all of the same Mind, that the Breast was in no Danger, but full Ripe for a Discharge. Upon her Return, she consented to my Laying on a Bit of Caustic, from which, before the next Morning, the Matter had burst through the Eschar, in a prodigious Quantity, and in Ten Days time, by the common digestive, was all dreined of, the Breast contracted, and the Ulcer incarn'd and firmly Cicatriz'd; I wisht her to pay a Visit to the Doctor, but she so much repented (as well she might) his intended Barbarity, that she would not go a-nigh him.

This

I have observ'd, that which is the greatest Argument of his Ignorance, and indeed a Scandal to an Artist, is what this Person chiefly Glories in, *viz.* That he Operates without loss of Blood, so that whither the Malady be malign or not, or the Habit of Body never so Plethorick, in performing an Operation, where he ought to suffer a Free Discharge for the greater ease of the part, the Prevention of Symptomattick Feavours, Inflammation, &c. tis this Fellows chieft Care, even the utmost of his Ambition, immediately to damm up the Mouths of the Vessels and (if possible) to prevent the Effusion of a drop of Blood, when at the same time if any large Artery is concern'd in the Hemorrhage, his Fam'd Stiptick will not do so much as the common crude Vitriol made use of for that Purpose.

I am now Highly Sensible it behoves me to ask your Excuse for this Prolixity, which I have been rather Guilty of, not Pretending to inform you of what you know already ; but to intimate, for the sake of the Publick, the unspeakable Damage accruing to them, by an unlimited Toleration of Ignorant and Unskilful Persons, in the Practice either of Physick or Chyrurgery ; which there can be no better way to avoid than (having beyond Controversy manifested the Abuse) by endeavouring to obtain an *ACT* of Parliament for its future Prevention.

Man-

This Man, *SIR*, has Daily the Impudence on his Publick Stage to traduce, abuse, and vilify the whole Corporation, endeavouring to make his Rabble Auditory believe, he can do more than all of them: Such Cures (if I may borrow one of his own Thread-bare Expressions) as could not have been perform'd by the Hands of Man, if he *R. B.* did not perform them.

It is not many Months since a Young Woman came to me with a large Tumour, hindring her Speech, seated under her Tongue upon the Sublingual Glands; being one of those which our Authors Treat of under the Name of *Ranula*, she had been with this Fam'd Pretender, who told her it would kill her, and if she suffer'd it to be open she would inevitably Bleed to Death in a few Minutes: However not at all dismay'd at his most Scandalous and Ignorant Prediction, I prevail'd with her for thrusting in my Incision Knife deep into the Body of the Tumour, and instead of Blood discharg'd (what I expected) near a Quarter of a Pint of a glary Matter, exactly like the Whites of Eggs; next Day I dilated the Wound, and having clear'd away the Recrements of the said Humour, permitted it to Unite, so that this Mortal Distemper was in less than a Week removed; and that without the Hands of the said *R. B.* or the help of his infallible Stiptic.

Mankind in general, are agreed in this; that an Illiterate and Injudicious Person is not fit to be entrusted with the Concerns of Life: Even those who suffer by them, are of this Opinion. For the Law making no Provision for an Enquiry, who is, or is not qualified: And it being, without such provision, impossible for the People to distinguish one from the other; they must necessarily be subjected to a very great number of un-fore-seen Misfortunes.

You know *SIR*, 'tis Customary with these Persons to keep the most exact Account of every petty Cure or inconsiderable Recovery, that happens where they have been concern'd, so that the next who resorts to them, is sometimes sent from one End of the Town to the other, to enquire what great Feats they have done, in a Case as 'tis Represented, exactly like that of the Querists; whilst in the mean time their failings and miscarriages (which will be found Twenty to One of their Cures) are hush'd up in the greatest Privacy.

It would be strange indeed, if the most ignorant Person living, had not the good fortune to be able to shew some few that Fancied themselves, or might really, tho' at hap hazard, be better'd by their Prescriptions; but to go by
such

such a Rule in General, is much the same thing as for me to expect, because I have heard of one in Fifty, that has fallen from a House without much Hurt, that I shall have the like Success my self.

I cannot say but I have known (and think it not the least Disparagement to the Persons before concerned) where an Old Woman has been so lucky at Long Run, to have some stubborn Ulcer or Strumous Affect dry up under her management, when the same had been dismiss'd the **Hospital** as incurable; but what can be infer'd thence, seeing 'tis manifest where one such Instance can be given, a Hundred others have receiv'd their Cures, in the same **Hospital**, after they had been spoil'd and ruin'd by such People.

I must Confess, as I have always lookt on it of great Necessity to Observe my self, so I think it no useless Caution to the best of Artists, that they carry themselves Circumspectly in their Prognostick; and not too positively Pronounce the Event of any Disease; about which they shall happen to be consulted.

The Body of Man is a Compage of so great Variety, so many little Springs are moving this most Wonderful Machine: and the
D Texture

Texture of the Fluids so suddenly alter'd either one way or another, that whoever rightly considers, how wonderful the Animal Oeconomy is carried on, will find it no just Reflexion on humane Reason, that it cannot precisely determine, what shall be the Result of such minute Corpuscles, as are therein concern'd, under every particular Modification: For as the greatest Depth of Judgment cannot sometimes rectifie its inscrutable Disorders, or prevent the Ruine of the Stupendous Fabrick: So has it been observ'd, at the Instant of some lucky Crisis, that an Emprical Medicament, given at perfect Randum, has fortunately turn'd the Scale, and brought a wonderful Esteem and Credit to the vain glorious Mountebank; nay, at sometimes to the more ignorant old Woman, who if they never succeed after in any thing they undertake, that one Casual Recovery does so strangely amuse the inconsiderate World, that some Persons shall think as well, if not better, of these sort of People, for this single Cure, than of an Artist, who in the much greater variety of his Practice, has had no more than one Miscarriage.

I have already, in a former Apology, published in behalf of the Learned Practitioners in Chyrurgery, treated more largely on this Subject, and endeavour'd to satisfie every unprejudiced Person, that the *CITY* of *London* is most abominably put upon: Abundance of its Inhabitants maimed and undone through the Countenancing great Numbers of Ignorant ill designing Men, who take on them the Name of Practisers

Practisers in Physick and Chyrurgery: And truly I have often thought it a very great Unhappiness, that none but such, as are lookt on as concerned Partys, can make a Judgment of this Matter. Now you know He that speaks never so impartially or equitably in a Cause to which He is suppos'd to have the least Relation, has not often a due Stress laid upon his Assertions.

As to my own part, whatever others think, I must believe this to be the Cause of the Publick: For tho' some small Advantage may accrue to every particular Professor by Law appointed or duely examined: Yet the greater and more Momentous, will most certainly be the Peoples.

Every Art has had its Adversarys amongst the Ignorant: But methinks 'tis very strange, that this of ours, which gives Sight to the Blind, Hearing to the Deaf: Sets together our disjoynted and broken Bones, and reduces the Frail Structure of Humane Bodys to their wonted Health and Vigour, should have so much as one amongst the most barbarous part of Mankind: Nor would it certainly; if Care were taken to prevent any One skreening Himself under the Pretence, unless those only who should be found worthy to be admitted into the Practice.

This, SIR, is what I hope we shall see accomplished

complisht, more especially at a time, when One so much above the Flattery and Envy of the World as your self, is ready to interest Himself in the Affair: Who I am confident (how well so ever you may wish to Surgery) have too great a Regard to that just Esteem and Repute you have deservedly acquir'd, to promote its Reformation upon any other, than the most reasonable, as well as honourable Grounds: Whither or no these I have hinted, may not truly be deemed such, I must leave to that great Assembly who only have the power of redressing the Aggrievance, to determine, whilst I remain

SIR

Your much obliged Servant

T D

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The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions in the Department of the Interior, under the act of March 3, 1879, entitled "An Act to provide for the better management of the public lands, and for other purposes."

Position	Name
Secretary	John W. Foster
Assistant Secretary	John W. Foster
Chief of Bureau	John W. Foster
Assistant Chief of Bureau	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the General Land Office	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of Land Management	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of Mineral Lands	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of Water	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of Forests	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of Game and Fish	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Parks	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Monuments	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Antiquities	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Historic Sites	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Historic Landmarks	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Historic Trails	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Historic Sites and Monuments	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Historic Landmarks and Trails	John W. Foster
Commissioner of the Bureau of National Historic Sites, Monuments, Landmarks, and Trails	John W. Foster